



**KENTUCKY READING FIRST
UPDATE (8)
April 2005**

Hopefully, everyone has had a wonderful spring break and is energized to finish-out the 2004-05 school year in a big way! It is hard to realize that we are in sight of completing Kentucky's Reading First implementation year! The final assessment dates are just around the corner.

I. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

April 13th - School Coach Meeting

According to the evaluations, it appears that this professional development was a success. Many of you mentioned that this information would have been better to receive last year; however, the information was not available last year. So, we hope you are able to still find the information useful as you begin planning for the upcoming school year.

There were several activities noted in yesterday's session that should be of great use. For example, it is advised that everyone review the pages titled *Delivering Explicit and Systematic Instruction* and the *Guidelines for Making Instruction Systematic and Explicit* (attached) as a group with the teachers in your building.



Handout2.pdf



Handout4.pdf

And, if it appears that your school is continuing to struggle with small group instruction and management - please review pages 39 & 40, 43 - 45 (chapter 5, resource pages 6 & 8) See attached.

We believe this resource will be helpful as you continue to refine the implementation of your grants.

International Reading Association Convention

This year's IRA conference will be held in San Antonio the week of May 1-5, 2005. If you would like more information, visit the following website: [<http://www.reading.org/association/meetings/annual.html>]. If you plan to attend, we are hopeful you will share your experience and expertise at the Kentucky Reading Association Conference scheduled for September 23 & 24th, 2005. You can download a proposal form from the KRA website - www.kyreading.org <<http://www.kyreading.org>>.

Reading First/Division of Exceptional Children Services Special Education Summer Institutes (2005)

Kentucky Reading First and the Division of Exception Children Services will be sponsoring approximately twenty-seven summer institutes for special educators grades 4-8 in funded Reading First districts. Some districts will have multiple sessions, thanks to the work of the Special Education Cooperative in that area. Attached you will find a listing of the RF/DECS Special Education Summer Institutes.

Reading First Summer Institutes

Final arrangements are being made for the 2005 Reading First Summer Institutes. Please check with your State Coach for details about the institute(s) scheduled in your local area. Thank you to all who are planning to provide assistance with the deliver of this year's summer institute content.

2nd Annual National Reading First Conference

Many of you have already made plans to attend this year's 2nd Annual National Reading First Conference. The United States Department of Education (USDoE) Reading First Office is expecting over 15,000 people. The conference is schedule for July 26-28 in New Orleans, LA.

REMINDER

Each site should make sure you have professional vitas for individuals providing Reading First professional development to your school. Your core program representatives should be providing on-going professional development.

II. BUDGET SUPPORT

The third quarter expenditure report is due April 25th. We appreciate everyone getting these to Thelma Hawkins in a timely manner.

III. ASSESSMENTS

NOTE: Please disregard the email that was sent out earlier this week regarding the testing window.

GRADE

Fall Administration

As a follow up to the discussion that was started at the April 13th School Coach meeting, we are interested in hearing your thoughts on testing on- or off-level for the upcoming fall administration of GRADE. As you are aware, we testing off-level for the 2004 fall administration, however students in Reading First building have now had a complete year of Reading First instruction which would allow us to go to on-level testing. The opposing side to this issue is that, on-level testing in the fall may increase testing anxiety for our students in the lower primary grades (with a more difficult test). So, the KDE Reading First staff is interested in your opinion. If you have a strong feeling about this issue, we are asking that you put it in writing to your State Reading First Coach as soon as possible. All comments and opinions will be taken into consideration, as a final decision about this issue will be made before the end of the month. Please submit your comments with a rationale to your State Reading First Coach on or before **Wednesday, April 20th**.

In addition, please include your thoughts about the future scoring process. Options are: (1) hand score at local site or (2) continue with AGS scoring.

Issues and Concerns

Please send all issues and concerns about your GRADE materials to your State Coach by **Monday, April 25th**. If the issue or concern has been resolved to date, do not submit the concern. However, if you are still waiting for student results or you have problems with you latest shipment of booklets, please inform your state coach.

2005 Spring Administration

All student materials should be postmarked and on the way to AGS by Wednesday, **May 11th**.

DIBELS

All DIBELS assessments should be completed by May 12th and synced to Wireless by **Monday, May 16th**.

REMINDER/FYI

End-of-Year Obligations

Please submit your CSIP Reading Component to Kiley Whitaker at kwhitake@kde.state.ky.us <<mailto:kwhitake@kde.state.ky.us>> on or before **Friday, May 13, 2005**. This component is a non-negotiable part of your approved plan.

2005-2006 School Year Professional Development Plans - Reading First

Your approved Reading First professional development plan would have taken your school and faculty through professional development experiences through May 2004. Therefore, each funded site will need to submit a new professional development plan for the 2005-2006 school year. Summer Institutes this year will count for 13 hours of your 80 hours of Reading First professional development. All 2005-2006 Reading First PD plans should be submitted on or before **Friday, May 27th**. Some of the activities in your plan will be reflected in your Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) Component.

Resource: Phi Delta Kappan

The February 2005 edition has a special section on reading research. Several well known reading researchers are featured: Elaine Garan, Peggy McCardle, Cinita Chhabra, Timothy Shanahan, Stephen Krashen, Harris Cooper, and Richard Allington.